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 ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADS-00 VO-05 FBIE-00 INSE-00 SS-15
 L-03 PA-01 CA-01 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
 DODE-00 SY-05 SYE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /057 W
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 FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4265

SECRET BUENOS AIRES 1309

E.O. 12065: RDS-4 2/13/00 (HITCHOCK, WILBUR W) OR-V
 TAGS: SREF, SHUM (CARLOS JOSE GOLDENBERG)
 SUBJECT: (C) ARGENTINE ASYLUM SEEKER

REF: STATE 035072

1. (C) WHATEVER THE CASE IN THE PAST, AND THE FACTS ARE DIFFICULT TO ESTABLISH, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT BEING A SCIENTIST, BEING JEWISH, OR BEING BOTH WOULD BE SUFFICIENT CAUSE FOR A PERSON TO BE SINGLED OUT FOR PERSECUTION IN ARGENTINA TODAY.

2. (C) PRIOR TO 1979 THE DANGER WAS GREATER THAN AT PRESENT. THEN THE SECURITY FORCES WERE OPERATING WITH SEEMING ABANDON, SWEEPING UP THE APPARENTLY INNOCENT, POLITICAL DISSIDENTS, THOSE ONLY marginally connected with subversion as well as terrorists. JEWS THAT WERE CAPTURED BY THE POLICE AND THE MILITARY FREQUENTLY EXPERIENCED THE EXTREME ANTI-SEMITISM THAT PREVAILS IN SOME SECTORS OF THE SECURITY FORCES. SCIENTISTS WERE NOT SINGLED OUT FOR PERSECUTION AS SCIENTISTS. HOWEVER, IT APPEARS THAT POLITICAL AWARENESS, POLITICAL DISSIDENCE, AND TO A DEGREE TERRORIST SYMPATHIES, WERE PROBABLY HIGHER AMONG SOME SCIENTIFIC DISCIPLINES. THE SECURITY FORCES APPLIED THEIR INDISCRIMINATE AND BRUTAL TACTICS TO THESE FIELDS. AS A RESULT FRIENDS AND INNOCENT COLLEAGUES OF THE POLITICAL ACTIVE WERE SWEEPED UP IN THE SECURITY FORCE'S NETS. JEWISH SCIENTISTS, PARTI-

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cularly those in scientific fields regarded by the security forces as sensitive (i.e. nuclear physics, psychiatry) or those who had some ties to Israel, were regarded with special suspicion

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BY SECURITY UNITS.

3. (C) TODAY THE SITUATION IS IMPROVED. DISAPPEARANCES AND RELATED ABUSES HAVE DECLINED TO ALMOST ZERO. IN RECENT MONTHS SECURITY FORCES HAVE BEEN UNDER BETTER CONTROL AND HAVE ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY FOCUSED ON HARD-CORE TERRORIST TARGETS. THE INNOCENT OR EVEN THE POLITICAL DISSIDENT, FOR THE MOMENT AT LEAST, SEEM RELATIVELY SECURE.

4. (C) TO DATE, WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO DEVELOP ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING THE SILOIST GROUP TO WHICH GOLDENBERG ALLEGED TO HAVE BELONGED. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT IT DID NOT EXIST BUT RATHER THAT IT WAS NOT ONE OF THE GROUPS KNOWN TO HAVE ATTRACTED THE ATTENTION, AND WRATH, OF THE SECURITY FORCES.

5. (C) WITHOUT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT GOLDENBERG WE CANNOT MAKE A MEANINGFUL ASSESSMENT OF THE RISKS THAT HE WOULD FACE WERE HE TO RETURN TO ARGENTINA. HOWEVER, IT CAN BE SAID THAT THE RISKS OF PERSECUTION IN TODAY'S IMPROVED CLIMATE HAVE DECLINED SUBSTANTIALLY

WHEN COMPARED TO THE RISKS ENCOUNTERED IN 1977. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT GOLDENBERG'S PERSONAL SECURITY IN ARGENTINA CAN BE GUARANTEED, BUT HIS PERSONAL SECURITY WOULD SEEM TO BE NO MORE ENDANGERED IN ARGENTINA THAN THAT OF ANY OTHER ARGENTINE.

6. (U) WITH REGARD TO GOLDENBERG'S "NO OBJECTION UNDER SECTION 212(E)" REQUEST (PARA 6, REFTEL) WE SUGGEST THAT HE WRITE DIRECTLY TO THE APPROPRIATE GOA OFFICE IN BUENOS AIRES (WITH COPY TO US). WE ARE DETERMINING WHICH OFFICE WOULD HANDLE REQUESTS FROM SCIENTISTS SUCH AS HE, AND WILL LET YOU KNOW BY.
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SUBSEQUENT TELEGRAM. (HIS 1978 J-1 VISA APPLICATION SHOWS THAT HE IS A SCIENTIST ENGAGED IN MOLECULAR VIROLOGY.)

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